

# ***NEWS RELEASE***

***STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION***

***Carol A. Murray, Commissioner***

**For Immediate Release**

November 1, 2002

**Contacts:**

NHDOT Public Information  
(603) 271-6495  
Dwight Baldwin  
Chocorua Lake Association  
(603) 868-5759

***HISTORIC DOCUMENT SIGNED TO PROTECT CHOCORUA LAKE  
DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS ALONG ROUTE 16 YIELD RESULTS***

New Hampshire Department of Transportation Commissioner Carol Murray has signed a document pledging an ongoing cooperative relationship with the Chocorua Lake Association to protect the water quality of the scenic lake and public resource near NH Route 16.

The Memorandum of Understanding, signed yesterday on the shores of Chocorua Lake, is a formal document that according to Chocorua Lake Association member Dwight Baldwin, “will assure communication between those who love the lake and those who have an effect on its water quality.” It’s believed to be the first of its kind ever signed between a private environmental group and the NHDOT.

“Chocorua Lake was here before Route 16, and going back and protecting the resource is the right thing to do,” Commissioner Murray said at the signing ceremony.

Under the terms of the agreement, the NHDOT will maintain “best management practices” along nearby NH Route 16 in both maintenance and construction activities, will notify the lake association of meetings or projects affecting the highway, and will be sensitive water quality issues. In return, the Chocorua Lake Association will monitor the best management practices, provide annual water quality reports and attend any meetings related to Route 16 to offer input to the NH Department of Transportation.

Declining water quality in Chocorua Lake became a major concern in the early 1990’s when increased levels of nutrients, including phosphorous, entering the lake triggered algae growth. About 75% of the phosphorous entering the lake was traced to the Chocorua River, with 15% attributed to storm run-off from Route 16.

Working with a Chocorua Lake Watershed Project Team that included state and federal agencies and local interested citizens, the NHDOT used maintenance forces to install improved drainage and sediment filtering systems at four culvert locations along Route 16 near Chocorua Lake. The result, according to UNH researchers, is an 82% reduction in the amount of phosphorous entering the lake along the eastern shore near Route 16.

“Working together to minimize surface runoff into the lake has been an outstanding example of cooperation,” said Bob Griffin of the Chocorua Lake Association, who also signed the document. “The memorandum of understanding assures that the project’s success will continue into the future.”

- 30 -